

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 4 and 13 are active in the case.

The Examiner states that the inventions of Groups I and II are related as product and process of use under M.P.E.P. § 806.05(h) and the product as claimed can be used in another and materially different process such as a method of using the compositional buffer in making a semiconductor device.

However, the Examiner has given no reasons why the compositional buffer shown for use in ferroelectrics, piezoelectrics and superconductors may serve any purpose in the formation of a semiconductor device.

Therefore, it is submitted that the requirements of M.P.E.P. § 806.05(h) have not been met and it is requested that the claims of Groups I and II be rejoined and examined in the present application.

Further, if the claims of Group I are found allowable, it is requested that the claims of Group II be rejoined under M.P.E.P. § 821.04 and allowed, also.

New Claim 13 is supported throughout the specification which teaches that the surfaces of the fine crystal grains that make up an electric ceramic containing a volatile element or thin film thereof are covered with a compositional buffer and by original Claim 1, which explicitly indicates that the surfaces of the fine crystal grains that make up said electronic ceramic or thin film thereof may be covered with the compositional buffer.

The compositional buffer of the present claims, surrounding the surfaces of the fine crystal grains in the form of a thin layer, is further supported at page 12, last paragraph of the specification.

The amendment to Claims 3 and 4 are supported by Claims 3 and 4, as original filed.

No new matter has been entered into the specification, the amended claims or new claim.

The rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite is traversed.

The addition of new Claim 13 and the amendments to Claims 2-4 clearly indicate that the compositional buffer is positively recited as surrounding the surfaces of the fine crystal grains that make up an electronic ceramic containing a volatile element or a thin film thereof. The claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Suzuki et al. is traversed.

New Claim 13 has been added to recite positively that the compositional buffer of the present claims surrounds the surfaces of the fine crystal grains that make up an electronic ceramic containing a volatile element or thin film thereof.

Although Suzuki et al. disclose a buffer layer comprising a silicate-based compound which has an amorphous structure, it is clear from Figure 1, which shows a cross-sectional view of a capacitor with a built-in multilayer substrate according to the invention of Suzuki et al., that the glass-ceramic substrate in Suzuki et al. has a structure in which a dielectric layer 31 is interleaved between a glass-ceramic composite substrate 21, 22, 23 and 24 (see Figure 1).

In contrary, the compositional buffer of the present claims is coated on the surfaces of the fine crystal grains of the electronic component and surrounds the surfaces of the fine crystal grains in the form of a thin layer, as defined in new Claim 13.

It is clear that the structure of new Claim 13 is substantially different from the structure of the glass-ceramic substrate of Suzuki et al., which merely describes a dielectric layer interleaved between the glass-ceramic composite substrate. In view of the presentation of new Claim 13 and the amendments to Claims 2-4, Applicants submit that the novelty of the present claims is fully established by defining the compositional buffer of the present

claims as surrounding the surfaces of the fine crystal grains of an electronic ceramic in the form of a thin layer, i.e., the specified structure of new Claim 13 clearly indicates the compositional buffer as coated on the surfaces of the fine crystal grains that make up the electronic ceramic containing the volatile element or thin film thereof.

The claims are no longer anticipated by Suzuki et al. and meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

It is submitted that Claims 2-4 and 13 are allowable and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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